

206202US3DIV



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Hironori FUJIOKA, et al.

: EXAMINER: KASTLER, S

SERIAL NO: 09/848,280

:

FILED: MAY 4, 2001

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1742

FOR: METHOD OF PRODUCING REDUCED IRON
AND PRODUCTION FACILITIES THEREFOR

RECEIVED
NOV - 6 2002

TC 1700 MAIL ROOM

10/1
10/6/02
10/6/02

AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated August 5, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 18-26, with the following text:

Figs. 24 and 25 show the pellet charging machine, which comprises a receiving portion 516 of the raw material pellets, an inclined plate 516b for guiding the pellets discharged from the receiving bin 516, and a pair of partition plates 517 and 518 for controlling the thickness of the pellet laminate layer. The height of the opening H3 at the bottom of the receiving portion 516, the intervals H2 and H1 under the partition plates are set